

(Washington, D.C.) - United States Representative Chet Edwards announced today that Texas State Technical College has been awarded a \$12,299,828 Department of Energy (DoE) Clean Cities grant funded by the economic recovery legislation signed into law by the President on February 17th. The funds support TSTC's efforts to develop a national liquid propane refueling network, and a clean school bus program. Edwards wrote Energy Secretary Steven Chu directly to recommend TSTC for the Clean Cities grant.

"This is great news for TSTC and Central Texas," said Edwards. "This program will play an important role in strengthening our nation's economy, security, and supporting our energy independence. These grants will give TSTC a leading role in creating new jobs locally while reducing demand on foreign oil and improving energy efficiency across the country."

Specifically, the funds will go toward Texas State Technical College 's Development of a National Liquid Propane (Autogas) Refueling Network, Clean School Bus/Vehicle Incentive & Green Jobs Outreach Program. The program will result in the development of approximately 184 liquid propane refueling stations in San Antonio, Austin, Houston, Dallas, Atlanta, Chicago, Denver, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Indianapolis, Seattle, Orlando, San Diego, St. Louis, and Oklahoma City as well as a refueling corridor along I-10 in Louisiana (New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles). The initiative will also support the purchase of 100 dedicated propane school buses and vehicles and, provide an innovative outreach program designed specifically to retrain and certify U.S. veterans and out of work or at risk service technicians for work in the alternative fuel and advanced vehicle technology industries. DOE estimates that the initiative will help displace more than 3 million gallons of petroleum annually. Edwards also secured \$100,000 to aid Texas State Technical College's program to train veterans in technical jobs under the 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations bill, which passed the House in July.

"Ensuring our veterans have the opportunity to use their skills to transition smoothly from military life to a civilian career is the least we can do to honor their service and sacrifice for country," said Edwards. "This is a positive example of investing stimulus funds in community based energy initiatives that allow local ideas to make a positive difference nationally."

The Clean Cities program will fund a range of energy efficient and advanced vehicle technologies, such as natural and renewable gas, propane, ethanol, biodiesel, electricity, and hybrid technologies helping reduce petroleum consumption across the U.S. In addition, funding will support refueling infrastructure for various alternative fuel vehicles, including biofuels and natural gas. Other efforts under the Clean Cities program include public education and training initiatives to further the program's goal of reducing the national demand for petroleum.

Other stimulus funds recently announced for McLennan County includes \$7.9 million for Veteran's Affairs funding, \$2 million in Housing and Urban Development Funding, \$17.9 million in education funds for local school districts, \$4.9 million for rehabilitation of the runway at the Waco Regional Airport, \$2.4 million for transportation improvements on US 84, \$1.2 million for energy efficiency grants, \$610,557 in formula grants for law enforcement from the Department of Justice, and \$1.1 million for public transportation.

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